

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25613 161720Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICAE-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12 DOE-15 SOE-02 SSO-00 PA-01

SS-15 NSCE-00 SMS-01 EA-10 /065 W

-----108584 161737Z /45

O R 161712Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6178

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25613

EXCON OECD

E.O. LL652: XGDS-L

TAGS: EQUIP, ETRD, US, FR, UK, IT, GW, GA, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO US DISCLOSURE OF DEMARCHE  
ON SALE OF COMPUTER TO TASS

REF: PARIS 23805

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REVALATION THAT A DEMARCHE  
HAD BEEN MADE TO THE FRENCH ASKING THAT THEY NOT  
PROVIDE A COMPUTER TO TASS WAS CARRIED ON THE FRONT  
PAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE PARIS  
EDITION MORNING OF AUGUST 16. LE MONDE'S EDITION  
THAT SAME EVENING HEADLINED "PARIS WILL REJECT  
WASHINGTON'S REQUEST NOT TO DELIVER A COMPUTER TO  
THE USSR". THE LE MONDE STORY NOTES THAT MAKING  
THE US DEMARCHE PUBLIC COULD BE PARTICULARLY EM-  
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BARRASSING FOR GISCARD, SINCE HE IS CONSTANTLY  
UNDER FIRE FROM GAULLISTS AND COMMUNISTS ALIKE FOR  
"SELLING OUT" FRENCH INDEPENDENCE.

2. WHEN WE CONTACTED THE RESPONSIBLE QUAI OFFICIAL,  
HE SAID THE LE MONDE ARTICLE OVERDRAMATIZED THE  
FRENCH POSITION. HE STATED THAT THE OFFICIAL QUAI

POSITION WAS AS QUOTED IN LE MONDE AND IN AFP (TICKER NUMBER 0052 OF AUGUST L6): "IN GENERAL, FRENCH PRACTICE IS NOT TO SUBORDINATE THE SALE OF CIVILIAN INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS." NEVERTHELESS, OUR CONTACT NOTED POINTEDLY THAT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE QUAI WERE "ASTONISHED" THAT THIS DEMARCHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND RECALLED SIMILAR UNWANTED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 5 PARIS MEETING ON SHABA.

3. IT APPEARS FROM AFP ITEMS 0077 AND 0078 THAT SOMEONE IS BACKGROUNDING AFP TO EFFECT THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FRENCH WILL WISH TO APPEAR INDIFFERENT TO FATE OF DISSIDENTS BY SELLING MAJOR COMPUTER TO TASS, EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE LEGITIMATE SALE UNDER COCOM RULES. AFP ALSO NOTES THAT US PROPRIETARY CONTROLS OVER TECHNOLOGY USED IN LARGE FRENCH COMPUTERS COULD ALSO NEGATE ANY SUCH SALE. HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, SALES, COMPUTERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PARIS25613  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 PARIS 23805  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 1722705  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** FRENCH REACTION TO US DISCLOSURE OF DEMARCHE ON SALE OF COMPUTER TO TASS  
**TAGS:** EQUIP, ETRD, US, FR, UK, IT, GE, GA, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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